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International Panther

Culture and Intensive English Program

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Fall 2019

## International Panther, Spring - Fall 2019

University of Northern Iowa. Culture and Intensive English Program.

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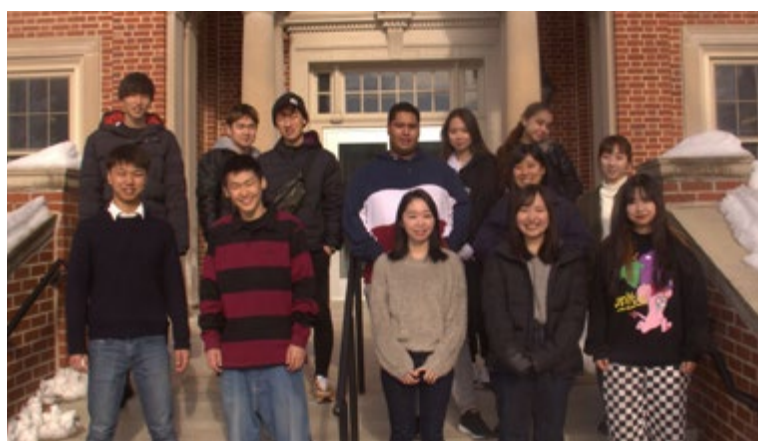
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**University of  
Northern Iowa**  
International Programs  
Culture and Intensive English Program



# INTERNATIONAL *PANTHER*



# FROM THE DIRECTOR

**CAROLINA CORONADO-PARK**



Dear readers,

Happy Holidays! It is the time of the year for reflection on what we have accomplished. This past year we have been busy, and, most importantly, productive: implementing new English programs with focuses on different subject areas – environmental education, sustainability or history – while also developing a new pathway program for English language learners from a high school in the community.

With common agreement, commitment and open conversation about why international instruction is important to educate global citizens, we have worked hard this year to move forward and continue promoting internationalization on our campus, in our community, and worldwide.

In 2019, I had the opportunity to travel to China, Peru, Mexico, Japan, and Taiwan to visit partner institutions and attend or present at international conferences. Throughout my travels, I had a chance to meet several former UNI Culture and Intensive English Program (CIEP) students and UNI alumni at each of my destinations- all of whom are doing remarkable and meaningful work within different fields.

During the past months, while traveling overseas, I met with several individuals who previously studied in CIEP, partaking in programs that ranged from two-week immersion courses to sessions lasting between six months and one year. Though their paths may have been different, all of these students carried the same goal into their studies in the CIEP: fulfilling their dreams through becoming bilingual or multilingual to pursue undergraduate or graduate programs at UNI. In the following pages, we are highlighting a few of their stories.

For almost 40 years, CIEP has been a gateway to UNI for many international students. Our primary mission has been to provide the academic language instruction and cultural orientation that is necessary for students to succeed in any higher learning institution in America. In that sense, we do not understand internationalization as synonymous to globalization; it is not mainly mobility of students or faculty. Rather, we see our work as one part of the internationalization concept. Our piece of the big picture involves equipping people with the tools to understand and adapt to a more tightly interdependent world, and embedding that global perspective throughout all that our university does. We not only present non-English speaking students with academic language instruction, we also create cross-cultural opportunities for our students both on campus and in our community.

During the past year, we have offered more than a dozen intercultural-related events that have been open to CIEP volunteers from the community, as well as UNI students, faculty and staff. In this issue, we are highlighting some of the activities and programs that were offered throughout

the year that gave us the opportunity to bring various parts of the world to the UNI campus and the community.

Internationalization can provide an opportunity for higher education and industry to work together to bring meaningful change to local communities, solve immediate challenges and create greater local economic prosperity. The University of Northern Iowa (UNI) is committed to championing diversity as a core value of the community. As a result, the UNI Culture and Intensive English Program has embraced several new projects and programs to connect with local businesses, non-governmental organizations, and high schools in the area. In the following pages, you will find more information about our work with new English language learners in the community as well as our partnership with the Waterloo Community School District.

This past summer, the CIEP implemented the first English Language Learners College Prep Academy in the state of Iowa. The academy is a four-week long summer program serving English language learners (ELLs) at West High School in Waterloo. Developed in response to requests from the district, the program builds college reading and writing skills for English Language Learners, exposes them to the campus culture and resources at UNI, and sets them on a pathway to education beyond that of high school. This summer, 18 students took part in the pilot academy. Please refer to testimonials from a few of the students to understand more about their goals for the future.

During the past several months, the CIEP instructional and administrative staff, including student employees, have been working diligently and efficiently to create new offerings and promote our CIEP program around the world. Be sure to read about the projects, presentations and publications that CIEP staff have been working on in order to promote the university but also to recruit and retain international students on campus.

The listed initiatives and demographic changes in our community have given us the opportunity to re-evaluate our services, mission, and collaboration with partner institutions internationally and locally. We are here to serve non-English speakers to achieve their professional and academic dreams. We could not be more excited to be part of the universities' larger vision towards enhancing our diversity, inclusion and equity culture on campus and in the community. Our internationalization goals working in the community or overseas have exactly the same institutional purpose: educate global citizens.

Once again, happy holidays and prosperous 2020!

A handwritten signature of Carolina Coronado-Park in black ink.

**CIEP Director**

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## OUR MISSION

The overall mission of the Culture and Intensive English Program (CIEP) is to provide International Students with quality intensive academic English language instruction and a cultural orientation to the United States in preparation for study at the University of Northern Iowa or other institution of higher learning.



### 17 COUNTRIES REPRESENTED

In 2019, CIEP welcomed students from 17 countries: Mexico, Democratic Republic of the Congo, China, Iran, Guatemala, India, Saudi Arabia, Peru, Brazil, Costa Rica, Japan, Korea, Thailand, Uzbekistan, Colombia, Vietnam, and Burkina Faso.



### 50+ VOLUNTEERS

In 2019, over 50 students and community volunteers worked with CIEP students through International Friendship Program, Conversation Partner Program, and the Retired Senior Volunteer Program.

### 3 IMMERSION PROGRAMS

CIEP hosted 3 immersion programs in 2019: one with the University of Piura in Piura, Peru, one with the University of Yamanashi in Yamanashi, Japan, and another with Latin University in San Jose, Costa Rica.

### 50+ CULTURE ACTIVITIES

CIEP has hosted various activities throughout the year. Highlights include kayaking, the day trip to Des Moines, the ISSO ski trip, conversation hour, sports activities, Backbone State Park, and Edgewood Rodeo.



### 2020 SESSION DATES

Spring 1 2020: January 14 - March 6

Spring 2 2020: March 11 - May 8

Summer 2020: June 9 - July 31

Fall 1 2020: August 25 - October 16

Fall 2 2020: October 21 - December 18



# UNIVERSITY OF YAMANASHI

BY ETHAN VANCE  
FORMER CIEP ACTIVITIES ASSISTANT

## ENGLISH AND JOB SHADOW OPPORTUNITIES IN IOWA

The CIEP was honored to host five students from the University of Yamanashi during the first spring term. This program was the first of its kind here at the University of Northern Iowa (UNI). Not only did the Yamanashi students participate in CIEP English classes, but they also participated in a professional development week. Furthermore, the motivation for the Yamanashi students to come here is because of Iowa Sister States, a non-profit organization that connects Iowa to states or regions of other countries around the world, including Yamanashi, Japan. Yamanashi became the very first sister state of Iowa. The relationship formed after Yamanashi was devastated by a typhoon in 1959. The State of Iowa stepped in with relief, including 35 breeding hogs and 100,000 bushels of corn to help feed those affected. The official agreement to become sister states was signed in 1960.

The professional development week consisted of three components: class observations, college and business tours, and job shadows. Each student observed two classes from various UNI professors in the students' respective fields of study, including computer science, anatomy, elements of weather, and sociolinguistics. They were also given the opportunity to tour Hawkeye Community College in Waterloo, Iowa, and Wartburg College, a private college in Waverly, Iowa. The Yamanashi students also received a tour of the local John Deere Tractor Cab Assembly. John Deere is an international business which makes agricultural vehicles and accessories and is known for its green and yellow heavy tractors. The tour was made possible by one of the many wonderful community volunteers. Lastly, the most impactful experiences were the job shadows. Students shadowed professionals in the future careers they

wanted, including architects, nurses, pilots, businessmen, and computer programmers.

Beyond the professional development week, students also got three-night homestays in Des Moines, Iowa. These homestays were arranged by Iowa Sister States that planned an array of activities. Students received a tour of the Iowa Capitol Building and the State Historical Museum of Iowa, visited the Yamanashi Bell, enjoyed a meal at Spaghetti works, and walked through the Pappajohn Sculpture park.

A highlight for the Yamanashi students, and all CIEP students, were the conversation partners. Conversation partners are native English speakers who meet with CIEP students weekly. Jack, one of the Yamanashi students, had this to say about his experience, "The conversation partner left a good impression on me. I had the opportunity to go to some places outside the classroom and better experience the local culture. I went to some traditional American restaurants and excursions with my conversation partner. [It was nice to] enjoy the great food and scenery of the area."

Another student, Mau, also expressed her gratitude for being able to study here at the University of Northern Iowa. "It was a short time, but it was good for me to be able to spend time as a university student in the US. From there, I had various experiences, and I found what I wanted to do in the future."



# Partners of the Americas

BY MACKENZIE WISNESKI  
OFFICE ASSISTANT



## ENGLISH AND SUSTAINABILITY IMMERSION PROGRAM

This fall, a small group of four students from the Universidad Latina de Costa Rica in San José traveled to UNI to develop their English language skills, as well as to explore the concept of sustainability here in the Midwest. This is the second ULatina Immersion session. This exchange program between UNI and ULatina was established through the Partners of the Americas in 2018. Partners of the Americas was founded in 1962 with the intent to bring together resources and intuition from various sources in order to connect education, service and means of action across North and South America. Through this program, new study abroad opportunities have been opened for students from UNI and ULatina via both campuses. This session, the students from ULatina demonstrated an interest in learning about English in relation to sustainability practices themselves, and working both on and off UNI's campus to expand their understanding of these topics.

To familiarize themselves with Iowa's friendly and farm-based atmosphere, students took a day trip to Des Moines accompanied by CIEP staff. There, they toured the capital building, shopped in Jordan Creek mall, and experienced our state's most popular and successful farmers market. They also visited Hanson's Dairy Farm in Cedar Falls to learn about what is needed to run an ecologically and financially ethical business in small-town Iowa. In addition to exploring business and consumer-based sustainability, the group was able to venture into nature to see the wildlife and natural preservation of the state as well. Students partnered with

Hartman Reserve to take a kayaking trip and witness the hidden beauty of Iowa's conservation parks. CIEP staff also led a bike ride through neighboring bike trails to showcase Iowa's unique dedication to creating and maintaining outdoor recreational spaces. One student, Tomas Molina Arias, frequently utilized UNI's trails and grasslands, and was pleasantly surprised when greeted by a deer during a morning run.

Overall, the students enjoyed their experiences in the ULatina program immensely. With the help of CIEP employees, local businesses, and UNI's facilities, the students were able to investigate numerous aspects of sustainability in both the Cedar Falls community and Iowa as a whole. They have since returned to Universidad Latina with new knowledge of English, of sustainability, and of delicious farm-fresh ice cream.



# CROSS-CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

BY CHLOE MUNDY  
OFFICE ASSISTANT

- Martin Luther King Jr. Volunteering
- Volleyball
- ISSO Ski Trip
- Baking Activity with Conversation Partners
- Culture Talk: Hip Hop and American Culture
- Snacks and Speed Friendships
- Class Exchanges
- CIEP BBQ Party
- Culture Talk: Learning Styles
- Ultimate Frisbee
- Conversation Hour with TESOL Club
- Cedar Falls Bike Ride
- Backbone State Park Hiking Trip
- Edgewood Rodeo
- Hansen's Dairy Farm
- Karaoke and Games
- Paddle in the Park
- Baseball
- Hartman Reserve Hike
- Homecoming Tailgate

## BAKING ACTIVITY WITH CONVERSATION PARTNERS

CIEP Students, including our immersion program students from Yamanashi, Japan, and their conversation partner volunteers made pizza and cookies in the Threehouse for our baking activity! At this event students got to interact with students from UNI to make food and enjoy it for lunch time.

## SNACKS AND SPEED FRIENDSHIPS

Students spent the afternoon enjoying baked goods and having discussion with UNI student volunteers. They got to talk about topics like their favorite food, talents, and more.

## CIEP BBQ PARTY

For the beginning of the second session, students got to spend the afternoon hanging out with new students, eating hamburgers, and playing indoor and outdoor games.

## CIEP SPORTS: ULTIMATE FRISBEE

With the transition from winter to spring, students had the opportunity to learn how to play ultimate frisbee from conversation partner volunteer, Jon Griffin. Students enjoyed their time playing a friendly game of ultimate frisbee with UNI student volunteers on campus.

## EDGEWOOD RODEO AND HIKING TRIP

Students were taken to Backbone State Park for a hiking experience like no other in Iowa. After the hike, students were taken to Edgewood, Iowa for a rodeo. Students enjoyed their time experiencing the midwest.

## PADDLE IN THE PARK

Students were able to use kayaks and canoes free of charge on a lake that is located in town. Students enjoyed this activity on the water.

## CONVERSATION PARTNER PROGRAM

The CIEP offers several activities to introduce its students to American culture. One of those activities is the Conversation Partner Program, which matches students with a fluent English speaker from UNI. It helps CIEP students practice their English listening and speaking skills in a conversational setting and experience American culture. There are other activities offered through this program as well, such as visiting local shops and restaurants, attending UNI sporting events, cooking american meals, watching movies, visiting American homes, attending holiday celebrations, and discussing cultural differences.

“This program helped me adjust to American culture and know about American students’ lives.”





# UNI CIEP & Waterloo Community School District Collaboration

BY JAIME WEST, CIEP  
ACADEMIC SUPPORT  
SPECIALIST

The Culture and Intensive English Program (CIEP) partnered with West High School in Waterloo, Iowa to launch a pilot course for 18 West High English Language Learners (ELL). This was a four-week program that ran from June 17th to July 12th, 2019. The goal of the course was to acclimate students to an academic/university culture and improve their English language skills through reading and writing instruction.

Every morning, students were bussed to the appropriate location for the course by UNI students who continued to aid them throughout the day. Students spent four days a week in a classroom at UNI-CUE in Waterloo with CIEP instructor Jaime West and West High teacher Ellen Sonnet reading informative articles and writing academic paragraphs/essays to prepare them for the university experience. On Fridays, the students spent the mornings and early afternoons on the UNI campus. These visits were a time when students could interact with faculty and staff around campus to learn about advising, applying, and studying at UNI. At the end of each day, students had the opportunity to reflect upon their experience.

Additionally, throughout the course, students spent time on Chromebooks provided by West High working on an online portfolio of their academic work and university resources. The academic work included future goals, a high school resume, academic compositions, and blog reflections of their experience throughout the course. University resources, such as tips for applying, studying, and socializing in a university setting, were also included. In the future, when these students are ready to apply to and later attend a college or university, they will have these materials available to look back on and aid them with the process.



The CIEP will offer this program again in the summer of 2020 for other high school ELL students due to the success of this year's program. Furthermore, CIEP is working with UNI and other organizations to find ways to continue to support high school ELL students as they enter and begin to study at the university. The overall goal is to see the successful graduation of ELL students from the university in the future.

## CIEP COLLEGE PREP ACADEMY

As part of the CIEP College Preparatory Academy, in the fall of 2019, CIEP began a partnership with West High School for the first ever Pathway Program. The program is focused on college readiness skills. In this program, the students work on essays, college-level reading assignments, and develop advanced critical thinking skills. The CIEP is working with West High seniors twice a week for 8 weeks this fall. CIEP will work with West High juniors for 8 weeks in the spring. The spring session will go from February 4th to April 30th, on both Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:00 to 4:45 p.m.. CIEP is excited for the new programs

and collaborations with West High and hope to see more West High graduates on UNI's campus in the years to come.

## THE OUTCOME

Sheila Houston the English Language Learner [ELL] counselor at West High School in Waterloo sent us this message.

"Several of my 12th grade students were seeking me (ELL Counselor) out the first week of school asking about scholarships, and wanting to start the college process. There is a great sense of awareness and excitement about the future, as they are feeling more empowered. Word of mouth is powerful and as we plan the list of students who will participate in the fall CIEP afterschool program on Tuesdays and Thursdays, all of the college interested seniors who didn't have a conflict were quick to sign up. The 11th graders are asking me when their turn is. In summary, the students know a good product when they see it, and CIEP support and leadership is inspiring to them and honestly I see that it feels like a compliment to them that a college would spend their valuable time helping them make a better future."



# Partners of America: English and Environmental Education

BY ETHAN VANCE  
FORMER CIEP ACTIVITIES  
ASSISTANT

On February 17th, 2019, the Culture and Intensive English Program (CIEP) at the University of Northern Iowa welcomed nine students and one professor from Universidad de Piura in Peru for a two week immersion program. This was the second phase of a three part Sustainability Immersion Program focused on English and environmental education. Prior to their arrival on campus, the group had been meeting with their instructors online for three weeks of classes and, upon returning to Peru after the immersion, continued the online course for another three weeks.

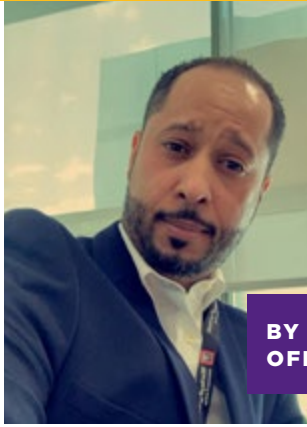
During their time in Iowa, the Peruvian students participated in multiple activities to further their English language skills, learn more about the United States and American culture, and enhance their knowledge of being a teacher. Their classroom activities involved English language learning and conducting different tests and experiments outside in the snow to learn how to teach their students using protocols from the Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) program. The group took two trips to observe American high schools: one public school and one private school. Since temperatures were below freezing in Iowa, the group also got a tour of the on-campus greenhouses. The greenhouses boast seven rooms filled with trees, fruit, fish, tropical plants, cacti, and more, all while being beautiful and warm. To end their time in the United States, the Peruvian students celebrated with a maple syrup festival. The festival featured all-you-can-eat pancakes served with maple syrup prepared on site.. This event was held at a nature reserve, so the students also had the opportunity to learn about local wildlife and plants.

Before the Peruvian students left, two of them, Amabela Guerrero López and Carlos Cotrina, shared their personal experiences here at the University of Northern Iowa.

Amabela is studying to be a English teacher back in Peru and shared what she liked most about Iowa. "I like to hear people, all the time, speaking English. I like the accent, and I want to speak like that. Also, what I like is the kind of education the United States has. It is very advanced. Students always have access to technology, and it helps a lot. I want this kind of technology [in my future classroom.]"

Carlos, who is studying to be a high school English teacher back in Peru, talked about his overall experience at the University of Northern Iowa. "It was one of the best [experiences] of my life. It is my first time out of my country. It is the first time I am in the USA. It is also amazing to know a different reality, different people, different food, different weather. It's like you are watching a movie, and you [want] to go into the movie. It's like I was inside a movie. It was a wonderful experience because it provided me the opportunity to build up myself as a student. It's the beginning of new opportunities."





## FORMER STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: **ALI AL-THOWAIMER**

**BY AMBER MAST  
OFFICE ASSISTANT**

Ali first decided to attend CIEP to study English, because he had heard that CIEP was a nice, safe place with friendly people. Although he felt lost on his first day, he remembers how CIEP made him feel at home, which helped with the difficulty of not having his family with him in the US.

Ali's favorite part of attending CIEP was all of the people involved and what they do for students. He commented that, "The way staff, teachers, and everybody are treating each other is really amazing." He also appreciated everyone's willingness to be there for the students whenever they need something and to give advice so they never felt alone.

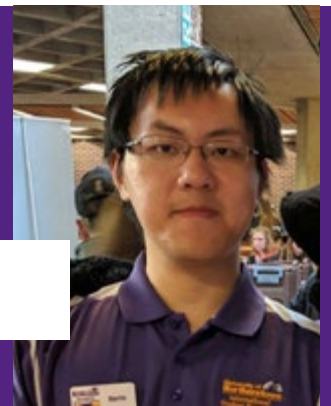
After graduating CIEP, he has continued his bachelor's degree at UNI and majored in Human Resources and Management. Presently, he works at WorleyParsons Engineering Consultancies as an HR lead, and now leads a team of around 30 employees. Ali says he now uses his skills every day in communications at work while advising and resourcing globally.

When he tells friends and family about CIEP, he finds it hard to describe, but that the teachers, events, and activities are fun for all and a great way to learn about US culture and language. His advice for anybody thinking about coming to CIEP is to just "Go for it because you will not regret it." He also advises that you study, and that you study smart and enjoy your time at CIEP.

One of his favorite memories of CIEP is one he will never forget. When he received his CIEP certificate in 2006, he said, "The last day, I felt like I was leaving family and home."

## FORMER STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: **HARRISON PAN**

**BY CHLOE MUNDY  
OFFICE ASSISTANT**



Meet Harris Helene Pan! Harris is a CIEP student who arrived to UNI last year from China. Before coming to the United States to study English, he studied Engineering Technology at Nanchang University. Harris learned about the CIEP from the University when people came to visit and talk about the program.

Harris is a member of the International Student Promoters (ISP) group on campus. He attends meetings and helps contribute to activities on campus. Harris attends many events on campus and in the CIEP. His favorite activity hosted by the CIEP was in the fall semester where there was an International Potluck with students from Mexico. He talked about how "he enjoyed all of the dancing and all of the new yummy food that was there."

Coming to the United States to learn English with CIEP has made a great impact on Harris' life. His favorite thing about coming here would be all of the friends he has made from all over the world. The best memory he has from his time here would be meeting his friend from Taiwan. His friend helped him settle in from the move, took him to activities on campus, and introduced him to ISP.

After finishing CIEP, Harris began taking academic classes on campus. He believes that the University of Northern Iowa has some of the best teachers. If he could give anyone advice it would be to come to UNI CIEP, because they have some of the best English teachers in the world.



## RECENT GRADUATE:

BY EMMA CORTNEY  
OFFICE ASSISTANT

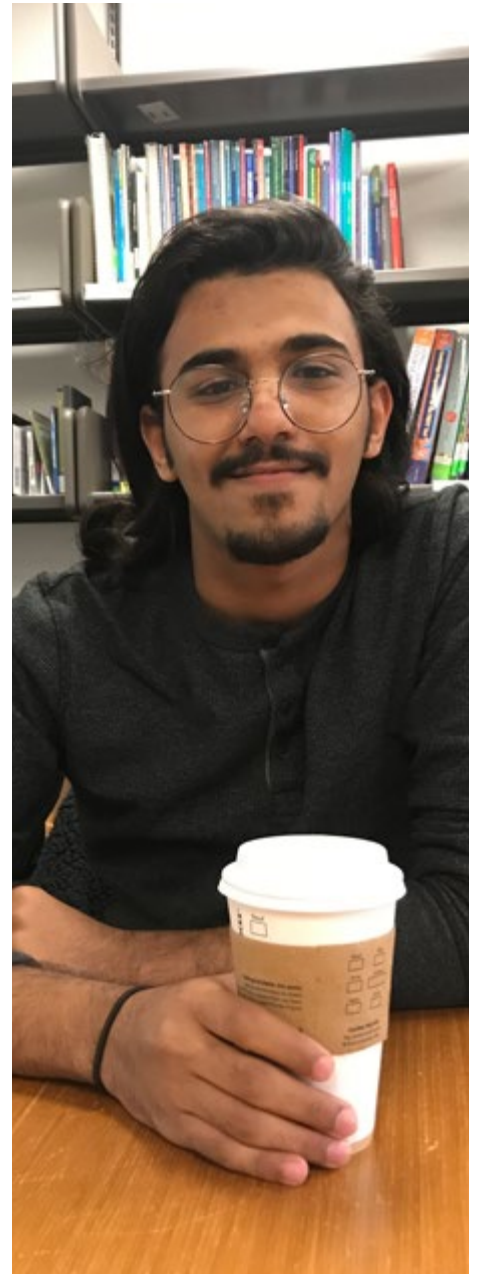
# MOHAMMED AL HAMMAM

Meet Mohammed Al Hammam! Mohammed is a recent CIEP graduate from Saudi Arabia. In Saudi Arabia, he went to the same school from first grade up until his freshman year of high school. Then, due to the war between Saudi Arabia and Yemen, he had to move to another city, and therefore another school to complete his education. When he moved schools, he had to move out of his parent's house when he was only 16 years old. After being homesick for a while, he has enjoyed his time on his own.

Mohammed studied with CIEP for almost a year and, for him, it was a remarkable experience. He enjoyed the events that the CIEP organizes and his favorite event has been our trip to Backbone State Park where we went hiking.

Mohammed has really enjoyed Iowa, and the friendliness of the midwest. The people in Cedar Falls have helped him to feel like he is part of community, and he appreciates that the most about coming to the United States. After completing the CIEP, he began academic classes at UNI.

This experience has been a blessing for him and he would like to thank all of his instructors for everything they have done for him. They have been super helpful, understanding, and he really can't thank them enough. "I would for sure recommend the CIEP to my friends in Saudi Arabia, this experience has been a blessing for me," says Mohammed. Thank you for all your hard work Mohammed; the CIEP is happy to have you.





# STAFF SPOTLIGHT: JOHN VALLENTINE

John Vallentine is UNI's Associate Provost for Faculty. He supports the Culture and Intensive English Program [CIEP], but wears many other hats as well. He advances the university vision, mission, and strategically plans with regards to faculty activities. He provides faculty personnel support for the Academic Affairs division and enhances coordination of administrative processes and procedures for faculty recruitment, retention, and recognition. He provides leadership development for department heads, interfaces with the Board of Regents and completes Board Reports, and oversees the Office of International Programs and the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning.

Philip Plourde, Executive Director of the Office of International Programs, reports to John's office and the CIEP is a unit within that office. John assists with supporting Carolina Coronado-Park, Director of CIEP, and advocates for the ongoing success of faculty, staff and students within the program.

John received his Ph.D. in Music Education from the University of Kentucky. He also has a Master's in Music (conducting) from UNI and a Bachelor's in Music Education from Southeast Missouri State. He served as the Director of the School of Music for 19 years and has been a faculty member and administrator at UNI for 29 years. Previously, he taught at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville and Waterloo High School (Illinois). This is his third year in the Provost's Office, and with his time as a student at UNI, he has been a panther for 31 years!

Vallentine has traveled extensively abroad to 22 other countries, which included professional wind band conducting performances in Russia, conducting and performance tours with students throughout Costa Rica, and family trips throughout Europe, Central America, North America, Iceland, and the Caribbean. The international musicians he has met, along with the many cultures he has experienced while abroad, have all influenced his teaching, administrative work, and passion for international educational experiences for our students. "The international students on campus are incredible ambassadors for their countries, which allows UNI students the opportunity to get to know them, bringing a diverse perspective and global knowledge to our campus," said Vallentine. Due to all of John's international experiences, he can truly admire the work the Culture & Intensive English Program does and looks forward to working with CIEP in years to come.



BY EMMA CORTNEY  
OFFICE ASSISTANT

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"CIEP serves as the foundation of educational excellence for international students in continuing to develop their English language skills in order to excel at UNI and enhance their cultural experiences and knowledge when returning to their home countries. I feel fortunate to be able to support the work of CIEP's director and the entire faculty, staff and students for making a difference on our campus. I have been able to personally witness the incredible growth and development of our international students at UNI and their impact on our student body, which is an incredible testament to everyone involved in UNI's CIEP program."

**- JOHN VALLENTINE**

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# COLLABORATIONS

## UNI CIEP AND COMMUNICATIONS STUDIES DEPARTMENT

**BY LAUREN REIN  
CIEP CURRICULUM &  
ASSESSMENT COORDINATOR**

In Spring 2019, CIEP instructor Lauren Rein began collaborating with Communications Studies faculty member Ryan McGeough on the newly-created international students sections of COMM1000, the undergraduate Oral Communications course. This was the second course specially designed for international students. The first course, College Reading & Writing, was co-taught in Fall 2018 with another CIEP instructor, Jaime West. These courses are meant to support international students' needs, whose backgrounds might include English as a second language and cultural diversity. Combining academic content taught by faculty, and language and cultural support taught by CIEP instructors, the goal is to improve the success and retention

of non-US-born students. The necessity of these classes will only grow, as upcoming American students are increasingly from other countries, as well as continued recruitment of students abroad.

In the COMM1000 class, the academic curriculum was maintained by Dr. McGeough, who designed it originally and trained Graduate Teaching Assistants in other sections. He assigned chapters for reading from a textbook written by UNI faculty. He emphasized public speaking and communication skills through a variety of speech assignments, including group, persuasive, and informative speeches. Lauren Rein supported the English and cultural learning by introducing the importance of citations and academic honesty, grammar points such as passive voice and conditional, and various pronunciation aspects.

Since finishing the first semester of teaching a specialized course for international students, the instructors sent out a survey asking for feedback. One student appreciated the class overall, writing, "The class was amazing and helpful because I met my fellow international students. This should be done all the time." Using a Likert scale, everyone "strongly agreed" or "agreed" that they had learned something and benefited from both the academic and language instruction of the class. With regards to the survey of what we should teach in the future, grammar and pronunciation were suggested, as well as assigning less reading but giving more quizzes. Most students remarked that they really appreciated and valued the opportunities for public speaking and presentation assignments. Several students volunteered to act as peer mentors for future international students.





# TRAVELS: PERU

BY EMMA CORTNEY  
OFFICE ASSISTANT

In July of 2019, CIEP's Lauren Rein traveled over 3,000 miles to Piura, Peru to present at a conference hosted by Universidad de Piura (UDEP). Lauren had the opportunity to present to the instructors of UDEP, Campus Piura Centro de Idiomas, about UNI CIEP and the special programs CIEP has to offer. The 6th annual International English Language Teachers conference was attended by elementary, secondary, and university-level instructors from several countries in South America with approximately 200 attendees in total.

While in Peru, Lauren gave two presentations. The first one pertained to the standardized practices and procedures of assessment that CIEP follows. The second presentation was a workshop that encompassed guided self-reflection questions. This allowed all educators to reflect on their own assessment beliefs and practices.



Lauren Rein is CIEP's own Curriculum and Assessment Coordinator and the opportunity for her to lecture in Piura was an incredible opportunity.

Not only did Lauren present at the conference, but she also attended other keynote speakers and workshop presentations. The other presenters at this conference were from Spain, Colombia, and Ecuador, and presented on topics such as Content & Language Integrated Learning (CLIL), classroom structures, "schoolology", and the "constructivist approach". The 6th annual International English Language Teachers conference was a great opportunity for CIEP to be represented and with Lauren's experience abroad. She was able to return and share what she learned with other CIEP instructors. Thank you, Lauren Rein, for your great leadership in CIEP.





# WORLD WINDOW:

BY JOHANNA GOMERNIK

## FROM THAILAND TO THE UNITED STATES

My name is Ramita Rujanant; or people may call me by my nickname, Prang. I am a graduate student from Thailand, a small country located in Southeast Asia. I came to UNI to study English in the CIEP and continue my degree in the College of Business.

Since I was young, English has always been my favorite class. In addition, my parents always encouraged me to study foreign languages and see the world. Traveling the world and meeting people from all around the world has always been my passion. I believe that meeting people from different cultures, beliefs, and nationalities can help you broaden your perspective. Plus, during my first bachelor degree in Bangkok, Thailand, at Chulalongkorn University, I was majoring in history. I took two American history classes and they became my favorite. Therefore, I wanted to come and study in the U.S. and go see all of the places that I had studied and read about. However, I did not have confidence that my English skills were good enough to study in the university abroad, so I wanted to prepare my English skills before applying for academic admission. I think the best way to study academic English is to study from an English institution or program within a university, so I decided to apply for the CIEP.

The reason that I chose to come to UNI is because I have a friend who is an international student here. He



recommended me to come to UNI, where the university is supportive of international students and there is a pleasant environment around campus. In addition, I prefer to stay in a small town like Cedar Falls, where I can get fresh air and feel safer compared to a big city. Also, I visited the CIEP's website and I thought they provided so much useful information and program curriculum that supported what I wanted.

When I first came to UNI and studied in CIEP classes, I was totally impressed by how CIEP staff and teachers are very helpful and supportive of international students. I like how classes are divided in a perfect size, not too big and not too small. Teachers always encourage students to participate in classroom activities. I could reach the teacher easily when I had questions and they were always happy to help me. CIEP classes also helped me with enhancing my academic English skills, such as reading, writing, speaking and listening. Moreover, CIEP has so many outside classroom activities for students that allow students to make new friends and learn more

about American culture. I also have a conversation partner who is an American friend from UNI that helps me to practice my English and exchange our culture as well. Not only did I meet American students, but I also met many international students in class who became my friends and with whom I enjoy talking. During classes, many in-class activities allowed us to practice conversation and work in groups, which allowed me to make many friends from CIEP.

One of the most exciting experiences for me is the weather in Iowa, which is totally different from where I came. Thailand is hot and humid all the time and, before coming here, I had never seen snow before. However, I realized that when the entire city is covered in snow, I find it very beautiful (but sometimes also too cold). I am also impressed by the friendliness of people here. Not only UNI students and staff but also the people of Cedar Falls are always happy to help international students. I can feel comfortable living in a lovely place like Cedar Falls.



# WHO IS WHO?

The Culture and Intensive English Program is thankful for all of the student employees that work in the office and help to make the program a success. These employees help with things such as finances, admissions, promotions, and coordinating events hosted by the CIEP. These student employees spend a lot of time in the office waiting to help CIEP students when needed. The student employees help to make our CIEP students feel welcomed and at home and we cannot be more grateful to our student employees for their hard work and dedication to this program.



Jen is a TESOL/Spanish-Teaching major from Fort Dodge, IA. She has been with CIEP since 2016 and enjoys working with the international students because it broadens her perspective on the world. She spent last summer teaching elementary students English in Arica, Chile. She enjoyed her time abroad and hopes to return in the future.



Amber is a Finance and Actuarial Science major from Cresco, IA. She has been with CIEP since 2017 and is in charge of the finances in the office. She enjoys working with the international students because they have a lot of good stories about home and how their home life compares with life in the U.S.



Chloe Mundy is a Leisure, Youth, and Human Services major with a Non-profit Professional Certification from Des Moines, IA. She went to Spain in high school. She has since been to Trinidad twice for missions trips. She works closely with admissions and enjoys working with CIEP because she gets to meet new people and learn about different cultures from around the world.



Mackenzie is a TESOL/Spanish-Teaching major from LeClaire, IA. She just started working with CIEP this fall and enjoys working with the international students because of the exchanges she gets to have with them. She participated in a Spanish Immersion Program in Spain in 2018, and cannot wait for her next experience abroad.



Emma Cortney is a TESOL/Spanish-Teaching from Council Bluffs, IA. She began working with CIEP this past summer and enjoys working with the international students because she can learn a lot from them. She studied abroad in Peru and has since taken a capstone course in Spain. She hopes to teach English abroad in the future.



Quinn Fielder is a Social Science Ed. major with a TESOL minor from Monticello, IA. He coordinates the activities for our CIEP students. With that being said, he gets to interact with a lot of our international students. He loves history and geography and communicating with international students which is intriguing for him. He has been to Europe twice and will likely return.

# ACADEMIC ENGLISH FOR NEW IOWANS

BY MACKENZIE WISNESKI  
OFFICE ASSISTANT

During the past five years, the UNI Culture and Intensive English Program (CIEP) has been enrolling new Iowan residents who have been seeking to improve their English skills for professional and educational purposes. As one can imagine, learning another language can be very difficult especially for those who have immigrated to the United States. Although CIEP has traditionally served international students entering university studies, as of late, local community immigrants are choosing to study intensively on the UNI campus as well. Following the inception of the Federal Refugee Resettlement Program in 1980, the U.S. has welcomed an average of 80,000 refugees per year. Since 1975, Iowa alone has welcomed more than 30,000 refugees. In 2017, Iowa welcomed refugees from countries such as the Congo, Burma, Somalia, Syria, Ethiopia, Nepal, Sudan, and Honduras, among others. The vast backgrounds of Iowa residents who choose to study with the CIEP contribute to the versatility and unity of both the midwestern community and the CIEP program itself.

The CIEP began expanding its

enrollment in 2014. At that time, we broadened our academic reach not only to international students from outside of the US, but to the global community within Waterloo itself. Through this idea, we have enrolled religious leaders who have been transferred to serve in the local community as well as new immigrants and refugees in the Cedar Falls and Waterloo area. Certainly, newcomers are changing the demographic spectrum of the country and state. In addition to their cultural insight and passion for learning, new immigrants and refugees are also bringing challenges that could be transformed into opportunities resulting in a more diverse society and more robust economy for the country as a whole. Internationalization can provide an opportunity for higher education and industry to work together to bring meaningful change to local communities, solve immediate challenges and create greater local economic prosperity.

The University of Northern Iowa (UNI) is committed to supporting diversity as a core value of the community. As a result, the UNI Culture and Intensive English Program focuses to

provide non-English speakers with quality intensive English language instruction. We also provide students with cultural orientation to that of the United States in preparation for study at higher education institutions or entrance into the local workforce. Fortunately, a number of our resident students are also receiving educational assistance to study with the CIEP through their employers—namely Tyson—in addition to other companies.

Recently, CIEP activity coordinators have introduced even more opportunities for our resident students to continue their learning outside of the classroom. Due to the increase in native French-speaking students from the Congo, a French conversation and coffee hour was introduced on select weekday mornings prior to CIEP class. This activity was implemented with the intent of providing students with a casual environment in which to practice their English skills while connecting with UNI's community. Often, members of UNI's International Programs or culture and language-based clubs will attend to participate and learn more about the CIEP students and their experiences.

